

**REMARKS/ARGUMENTS**

Reconsideration of the above application is hereby requested in view of the above amendments and following remarks.

Claim 4 is rejected under 35 U.S.C. 102(b) as being clearly anticipated by Collier.

Claims 5-6 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. 103(a) as being unpatentable over Collier in view of Kawanabe et al. Kawanabe et al is relied upon for teaching a fin density greater than or equal to 17 fins per inch.

Claim 4, the only independent claim in the application, has been amended to specifically recite that the fin has a bottom surface which has an uncoated central area and stripes of coating material along the outer edges thereof, and a top surface which is completely coated. The collars are uncoated on their inside surface and are uniformly coated on their outside surface. This structure is now covered by amended independent claim 4 and is illustrated in applicant's drawings (Figs. 2 and 3) and described in column 1, lines 3-10 and 56-65 of applicants' specification.

In contradistinction to applicants' structure, Collier applies a protective coating in the form of spaced stripes on the opposite surfaces of the sheet fin stock in which coated stripes are located in an area along each edge bounding a central area which is uncoated. The uncoated area is perforated to form collars which are adapted to receive one or more tubes to form the heat exchanger and which are completely uncoated. See Colliers specification, column 1, lines 58-68 and Figs. 2 and 3.

It is submitted that, as amended, applicants' now define their invention to define a structure which is neither appreciated nor suggested by Collier. Applicants' recited structure could not be obtained by the Collier reference, which is directed and limited to an uncoated central area and does not deal with the problems which applicants have solved relating to eliminating coated material from the inside of the collars. Furthermore, Collier's collars are completely uncoated both inside and out as set forth in Collier's disclosure and the drawings. Applicants' fin stock however, has a top surface which is completely coated with the collar outer surface also

Serial No.: 10/728,207  
Amendment Dated: August 31, 2004  
Reply to Office Action of August 20, 2004

containing a uniform coating. See Fig. 3 of applicants' drawings, where the top surface of the fin stock, including the collar, are uniformly coated, while the inside of the collar is uncoated.

With respect to claims 5 and 6, the reference to Kawanabe et al. is subject to the same deficiencies as Collier, and being dependent upon claim 4, it is urged that claims 5 and 5 are also patentable over the prior art for reasons set forth above.

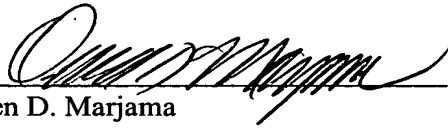
In view of the amendment to claim 4, the only independent claim in the application, it is submitted that the applicants have presented an advance which is not appreciated by the prior art. It is therefore requested that the above rejections be reconsidered and withdrawn and the application passed to issue at an early date.

If the Examiner wishes to expedite disposition of the above-captioned patent application, he is invited to contact Applicant's representative at the telephone number below.

The Commissioner is hereby authorized to charge any additional fees associated with this communication or credit any overpayment to Deposit Account No. 50-0289.

Respectfully submitted,

WALL MARJAMA & BILINSKI LLP

By:   
Owen D. Marjama  
Reg. No. 22,818

Telephone: (315) 425-9000

Customer No.: 20874